

Appl. No. 10/549,576
Amdt dated November 18, 2008
Reply to Office action of June 18, 2008

REMARKS

Claims 22, 23, 25-27 and 29-42 are now in this application.

By this amendment, the language of claims 28 and 24 has been incorporated into claim 22. Accordingly claims 28 and 24 have been canceled and the dependency of claims 25 and 39 corrected to claim 22.

In paragraph 2 of the Office action the examiner rejected claim 36 as indefinite, saying that the “outer jacket face” does not have antecedent basis. Claim 36 has been amended so as to correct this issue. In addition to this issue which was raised by the examiner, it has also been noted that “the cup” did not have antecedent basis and so the language of claim 36 has been revised to also correct this issue.

Claim 29 has also been revised so as to make it more definite.

In the Office action the examiner rejected:
claims 22, 23, 29, 22, 33, 34, and 38 as anticipated by Jay et al.,
claims 30, 31 and 32 as unpatentable over Jay et al.,
claims 24, 25, 27, 35, 36, 39, 41 and 42 as unpatentable over Jay et al. in view of Yie,
claim 40 as unpatentable over Jay et al. in view of Lindeboom,
claim 26 as unpatentable over Jay et al. in view of Lauer et al.,
claim 24 as unpatentable over Jay et al. in view of Waffler et al., and
claim 35 as unpatentable over Jay et al. in view of Weirich.

It is noted that the above list does not include claim 28, and so former claim 28 stands not rejected. This apparent indication of allowability of claim 28 is acknowledged with gratitude. Applicants’ believe that this apparent indication of allowability for claim 28, which along with claim 24 has now been incorporated into claim 22, is appropriate since none of the cited prior art has a holder and insert which fit together as recited in former claim 28. Jay et al. certainly does

not have such structure.

The reference which is probably closest to the structure as recited in former claim 28 is thought to be Waffler et al. But this reference does not teach the structure of former claim 28 in that Waffler et al. do not teach structure which includes a valve piston, applicants' element 3, slidably supported in the valve insert and wherein the valve insert seats a steplike transition of the valve holder.

Waffler et al. have an inlet at end 14 of their structure, which allows fluid to enter their pressure relief valve. The only element in Waffler et al. which could be considered to be a valve piston would be head portion 88. But with this in mind, there is nothing at all like applicants' recited adjusting shim which has a face directed away from the valve piston, and which shim face is engaged by the spring in Waffler et al. And furthermore, there is nothing in Waffler et al. which is at all like the valve holder having a steplike transition which is seated on the valve insert, as is presently recited by claim 22.

Regarding the examiner's prior art rejections, some of the wording of the rejections is confusing. For example, in paragraph 3 the examiner has indicated element 11 to be the piston in Jay et al., whereas in paragraph 5 the examiner has indicated that the piston is element 35. In actuality, 11 is a shoulder and 35 are a pair of inclined planes. At column 3, line 12, Jay et al. Indicate element 26 to be their piston.

These instances of ambiguity become critical when some of the rejections are considered. For example, with regard to claim 31, Jay et al. teaches surfaces 35 which are inclined and not parallel to the axis of the valve piston. However, it is applicants' surfaces 3a being parallel to

Appl. No. 10/549,576
Amdt dated November 18, 2008
Reply to Office action of June 18, 2008

the axis of the valve piston which results in the advantages described in paragraph 21 of the specification. Thus, claim 31 recites surfaces which are parallel to the axis of the valve piston, and it is this parallel relationship which gives unexpected and improved results over the sloped surfaces such as surfaces 35 of Jay et al. These parallel surfaces, which result is applicants' improvements, are not taught by Jay et al. or by any of the cited references.

It is noted that claim 29 has been amended so that it now is very similar in content to claim 31, although claim 29 is worded slightly differently.

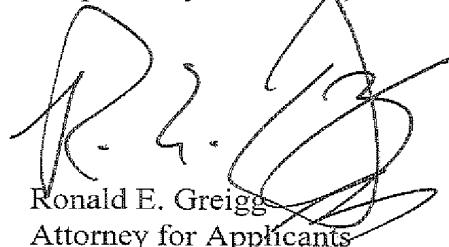
Claim 36 recites that the bore connects the interior of the valve holder cup to the outer jacket face of the valve holder. In his rejection the examiner has read this as being equivalent to outflow conduit 24 of Yie. However, conduit 24 of Yie does not connect to the outer jacket face as recited in claim 36. Rather, 24 is the fluid passage which is opened and closed by the valve of Yie.

For all of the above reasons, whether taken singly or in combination with each other, entry of this amendment and allowance of the claims are courteously solicited.

Appl. No. 10/549,576
Ammdt dated November 18, 2008
Reply to Office action of June 18, 2008

The Commissioner is authorized to charge payment for a two month extension of time, or any other necessary fees in connection with this communication to Deposit Account Number 07-2100.

Respectfully submitted,



Ronald E. Greigg
Attorney for Applicants
Registration No. 31,517
Customer No. 02119

Date: November 18, 2008

GREIGG & GREIGG, P.L.L.C.
1423 Powhatan Street, Suite One
Alexandria, VA 22314

Tel. (703) 838-5500
Fax. (703) 838-5554

REG/SLS/ja

J:\Bosch\R304929\08-11-18, R304929, Amdt re OA of June 18, 08.wpd